

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 AF-10 /073 W
-----087396 071739Z /45

R 071330Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2620
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMCONSUL SALVADOR BY POUCH

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS PDIP HA BR
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF HAITIAN AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2394

1. LOUIS ROBERT MACKENZIE, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE HAITIAN EMBASSY IN BRAZIL, SUSPECTED OF COMPLICITY IN THE MURDER OF HAITIAN AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL DELORME MEHU, HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY BY THE GOB FOREIGN MINISTRY. ITAMARATY IS AWAITING ARRIVAL OF HAITIAN REPRESENTATIVE, INTO WHOSE CUSTODY IT WILL RELEASE MACKENZIE. IN THE MEANTIME, MACKENZIE REMAINS UNDER A FORM OF HOUSE ARREST, GUARDED BY THREE AGENTS OF THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL POLICE, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN SITUATION BY SAYING THAT THE POLICE ARE THERE TO "GUARANTEE MACKENZIE'S PERSONAL SAFETY." CONTRARY TO INFORMATION IN REFTEL, BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED FULLY MACKENZIE'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDER, SAYING THAT HE IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING PAID 50,000 (FIFTY THOUSAND) CRUZEIROS TO THE KILLERS, AND ALSO NOTED MACKENZIE'S DENIAL OF GUILT.

2. LOCAL PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED MACKENZIE'S SUPPOSED CLOSE PERSONAL
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FRIENDSHIP WITH JEAN CLAUDE DUVALIER, ALLEGING THAT THESE TIES LED TO FRICTION WITH AMBASSADOR MEHU. AN UNNAMED AFRICAN AMBASSADOR WAS QUOTED IN AUTHORITATIVE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AS SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR MEHU HAD EXPRESSED PREOCCUPATION WITH HIS PERSONAL SAFETY DURING RECENT MONTHS AND HAD MENTIONED HIRING A BODYGUARD. AFRICAN AMBASSADOR ALSO CONFIRMED OTHER REPORTS THAT MACKENZIE AND MEHU WERE ON BAD TERMS, MAINTAINING BAREST FORMAL CONTACTS,

AND THAT AMBASSADOR HAD FORBIDDEN MACKENZIE TO ENTER THE HAITIAN EMBASSY.

3. BODY OF AMBASSADOR LEFT FOR HAITI, VIA MIAMI, ON WEDNESDAY, ACCOMPANIED BY BRAZILIAN FIRST SECRETARY LEAL SIMOES BARBOSA. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL AUTOPSY, CAUSE OF DEATH WAS "ACUTE ANEMIA, DUE TO INTERNAL HEMORRHAGING, PRODUCED BY A LESION IN THE RIGHT LUNG, CAUSED BY A PROJECTILE FROM A FIRE-ARM." TWO ACCUSED MURDERERS ARE IN BRASILIA FOR QUESTIONING BY BRAZILIAN FEDERAL POLICE; OFFICIAL ASSIGNED TO THE CASE STATED THAT HE IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT VERSION THAT TWO WERE PAID BY MACKENZIE TO MURDER THE AMBASSADOR, BUT SAID THAT ALL LEADS WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT POLICE HOPE THAT HAITIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT INFORMAL QUESTIONING OF MACKENZIE, PERHAPS UNDER AUSPICES OF THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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